

On nearly every desk was a bunch of flowers. The number far exceeded anything in the way of floral display in Congress in recent years. The air was so laden with perfume as to be a degree unpleasant.

The most prominent display in the Senate was on the desk of Mr. Hanna, and the largest and most elaborate in the House was a basket sent to Mr. Morrell by the T. C. Harner Club of Philadelphia. One member from the west was presented with an immense basket of flowers, which, though extremely gay, was not ray enough through the coloring of nature to suit the taste of the donor, so some of the roses and most of the leaves were splashed with gold bronze from the paintbrush.

Speaker Henderson arrived at his private office about 11:15 and soon was surrounded by members, discussing the program of business.

Scenes in the House.

The opening scene in the House was not especially impressive in itself, the routine of the roll call being a check to the animation on every hand prior to the falling of the gavel.

All the galleries except the executive and diplomatic were crowded and before the hour of meeting there was a scene of joyous congratulation among republicans in the House. The democrats generally were more than ordinarily quiet, but there was a universal display of good feeling; those of the defeated party taking the situation with smiling philosophy and the victors being too generous to "rub it in" too hard. The roll call shows an unusually large attendance.

The handshaking and clatter of conversation in the House was cut short by the Speaker's gavel at exactly 12 o'clock. Proper quiet was maintained during the opening prayer and for a few minutes after the roll call had begun, but such was the noise of conversation, greetings and laughter on the floor before the call was through that the Speaker adopted the unusual course of having a second roll call of those not responding on the first.

In his invocation the chaplain referred feelingly to the deaths of the late Representatives of New Jersey and Connecticut, which occurred during the recess.

Just before the roll call was completed a message was received from the Senate, announcing that a quorum of the upper house was present and ready to do business, and the roll call was concluded.

Senator Dillingham, chairman of the republican national committee, and Senator Jones of Arkansas, chairman of the democratic committee, were the first to enter the Senate chamber, when they entered the Senate chamber, and it would have been hard to tell the political affiliation of either of them by the men who welcomed them back to the Senate after their hard political campaigns. Mr. Jones went over on the republican side of the chamber when he shook the hands of the men with whom he had been in opposition on the stump during the last fall.

Senator Frye, president pro tem, called the body to order at noon, Rev. Dr. Milburn, the house chaplain, delivering a prayer, in which he feelingly referred to the senators from Minnesota and from Iowa who had passed away during the recess.

When the roll of the Senate was called the president pro tem, announced that sixty-one senators had answered to the roll call and that the Senate was ready to proceed to business.

Senator Dillingham sworn in.

Mr. Proctor (Vt.) presented the credentials of William B. Dillingham, who had been elected to succeed Jonathan Ross, who was appointed to fill the unexpired term of the late Senator Justin S. Morrill. When the credentials had been read, Mr. Dillingham was escorted to the desk by Mr. Proctor and to him the oath of office was administered by President Pro Tem. Frye.

Senator Gear's successor, former Representative Jonathan P. Dolliver of Iowa, was present, but his credentials were withheld until the official announcement of Senator Gear's death.

On motion of Mr. Platt (Conn.), the Senate directed the secretary to inform the House that it was ready to proceed to business.

A resolution by Mr. Hoar (Mass.) that a committee of two senators be appointed to also act as a committee, consisting of Senators Hoar and Cockerill, had been appointed to a similar committee from the House to notify the President that the two houses were in session and ready to receive any communication he might make to them.

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Conner's Credentials.

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On this objection Mr. Conner was required by the Speaker to remain until the matter could be brought into the House.

Mr. Conner's credentials were read and he was sworn in.

New Members Sworn In.

The following other new members, elected in number, were sworn in: Albert D. Shaw, who succeeds the late Representative Chickering of New York; Allen F. McDermott, who succeeds the late Representative Dally of New Jersey; W. O. Hoffman, who succeeds the late Representative Hoffacker of Delaware; Edward DeV. Morrill, who succeeds the late Representative Harmer of Pennsylvania; William Richardson, who succeeds the late Gen. Joe Wheeler of Alabama; W. H. Jackson, who succeeds Gov. Smith of Maryland; Sumner D. Woods, who succeeds Representative De Vries of California.

Mr. Babcock was appointed by the Speaker to succeed Mr. Dolliver as a member of the ways and means committee.

Upon motion of Mr. Payne the Speaker then appointed as a member of the committee on the committee of the Senate to notify the President that Congress was in session and ready to receive any communication from him.

The clerk also was directed, by resolution, to notify the Senate that the House was ready to receive any communication from the Senate.

Mr. Hoar, speaking for the committee appointed to report on the bill to amend the act to form him that Congress was in session and ready to receive any communication from him, reported that the President had expressed his pleasure in the fact that Congress was in session and that he would communicate with it forthwith.

Reading the Message.

Instantly Major Pruden, one of the secretaries to the President, was recognized and presented the awaited message of the President. Secretary Bennett of the Senate began at once the reading of the document, the reading being followed carefully by many senators from printed copies of the message which had been distributed among them.

Deaths in the Army.

General MacArthur has notified the War Department of the following deaths among the troops in the Philippines since the last report:

Killed—November 28, Umbao, Luzon, Troop D, 9th Cavalry, Samuel Walker; November 24, Manila, Luzon, Company F, 3d Infantry, Joseph H. Wenker.

Wounded—Company L, 3d Infantry, Otto Kruger, Daniel O. Harkins, wounded in head, serious; November 12, Cabatuan, P. I., Company H, 23rd Volunteer Infantry, Otis Manchester, wounded in chest, slight.

General Chaffee at Pekin reports that Albert C. Carter, Company G, 15th Infantry, died at Tien Tsin December 1 of dysentery.

A Satisfactory Outlook.

Mr. George F. Harries, secretary of the board of trade, was at the Capitol this afternoon and had conferences with the chairman and leading members of the District committees and appropriations committees of the Senate and House. While no matters of local legislation have yet been taken up actively, Mr. Harries is encouraged to believe that satisfactory results for the District will be secured in local legislation during the short session.

To Be Examined for Promotion.

Officers of the Marine Corps have been ordered before an examining board at the Washington navy yard for examination for promotion as follows:

Capt. S. D. Butler, Henry Leonard, Robert M. Gilson, Henry W. Carpenter, James C. Breckinridge, Arthur T. Marx, Henry Lee, F. H. Delano and W. H. Parker, First Lieut. N. C. Burton, L. M. Harding, H. C. Snyder, R. H. Williams, O. H. Rank, R. G. McConnell, J. B. Curran, L. B. Furell, H. C. Reisinger, Thomas A. Mott, St. John S. Caffery, J. C. Beaumont, John W. Wadsworth, William R. Coyne and Richard S. Hoffman.

At 2 o'clock, when the House assembled, Mr. Payne of the committee to wait upon the President reported that the committee had performed its duty and that the President would communicate immediately in writing. Thereupon Major Pruden, one of the President's secretaries, announced the message, which, by direction of the Speaker, was immediately read to the House.

The reading of the message was listened to attentively.

THE SENATE.

Never was there a brighter scene in the United States Senate than was presented this morning when the second session of the Fifty-sixth Congress assembled. All the galleries were crowded. The desks of the senators were never more beautifully ornamented with flowers, chrysanthemums or varied colors. American Beauty and other roses being exclusively used in the floral pieces. The largest of the floral tributes was on the desk of Senator Hanna, being in the form of a spreading rose bush covered with large American Beauties, with yellow chrysanthemums about the base. A nearly similar floral piece was on the desk of Senator Frye of Missouri, who has returned to the Senate in better health than when Congress adjourned. Senator Thurston's desk was covered with chrysanthemums of enormous size.

Senators Ross, made his first appearance in the chamber in company with Senator Proctor, who introduced him to the senators as they arrived on the floor. District Commissioner Macfarland came on the floor and renewed his acquaintance with the senators.

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The most notable and important cases disposed of are briefly mentioned.

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"Subsequently to the date of my report I advertised for and received bids for the construction of the building according to the proposed design. These bids verified the statement I had made in my report, to the fact that a very substantial increase of the appropriation would be necessary if the contemplated plan and specifications were to be carried out in full. The increase in the appropriation would be in the neighborhood of \$1,000,000, and in dignity and finish worthy of the objects for which the structure is intended."

To construct a building of the size required and of the design provided for within the present appropriation would require the construction of a building of a much smaller size, and of a style and finish which would render it an object of beauty and of general interest, would need to be constructed on the plane of an ordinary cheap office building.

"I have the honor, therefore, to renew my recommendation that an appropriation of \$1,000,000 be made for the construction of a building of the size and style contemplated at the time the act was passed, and in dignity and finish worthy of the objects for which the structure is intended."

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